

C. Remarks

Claims 31, 33-51, 55, 57-62 and 65-77 are pending in this application, with claims 31, 47, 51, 55, 76 and 77 being independent. All the claims, except new claims 76 and 77, have been allowed in the Notice of Allowance dated November 2, 2004.

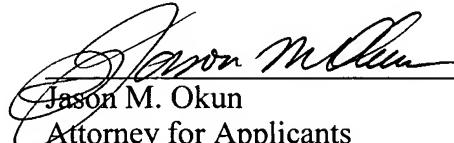
Now, claims 31, 51, and 55 have been amended for clarification. Claims 76 and 77 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification and the claims. No new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that all of the presented claims are in condition for allowance. These claims include the features consistent with those deemed patentable by the Examiner in the reasons for allowance in the November 2, 2004 Notice of Allowability.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable further consideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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